BENGALURU, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 90% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 80,983 | Nifty 24,836 | Gold 1,18,690 | Silver 1,53,000 | Dollar 88.69 | Euro 104.34 | GBP 119.48

Study shows if we consider buffer zone of 2 km around monitoring stations, only 20% of city's area is being screened for its ambient air quality; north, east, west fall in data shadow region

FALLING OFF THE GRID

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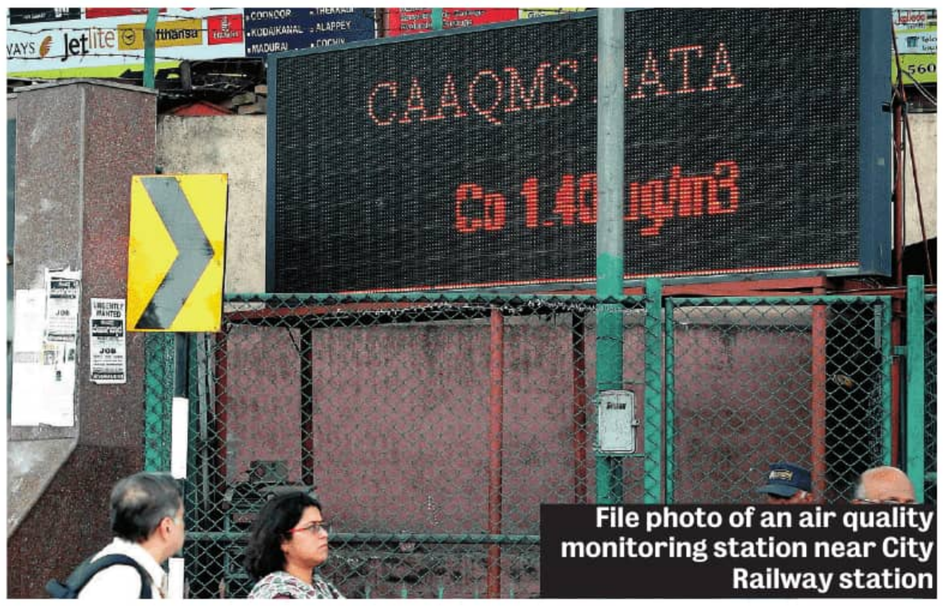
Bengaluru's current network of real-time air quality monitoring stations is inadequate, leaving a vast majority of people and areas in data shadow, a study by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based NGO, has highlighted.

The geospatial analysis conducted using population data and monitoring station locations shows that the existing network covers only 20% of Bengaluru's total area if a buffer zone (the extent to which a monitoring station can reliably indicate surrounding air quality) of 2 km is considered for the existing continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS).

With a buffer zone of 5 km, the stations are still covering only 70% of the city. The spread of monitors has thus been uneven, leaving large sections of densely populated areas of the city without adequate surveillance. Lack of surveillance on the northern, eastern, and southern outskirts



File photo of an air quality monitoring station near City Railway station

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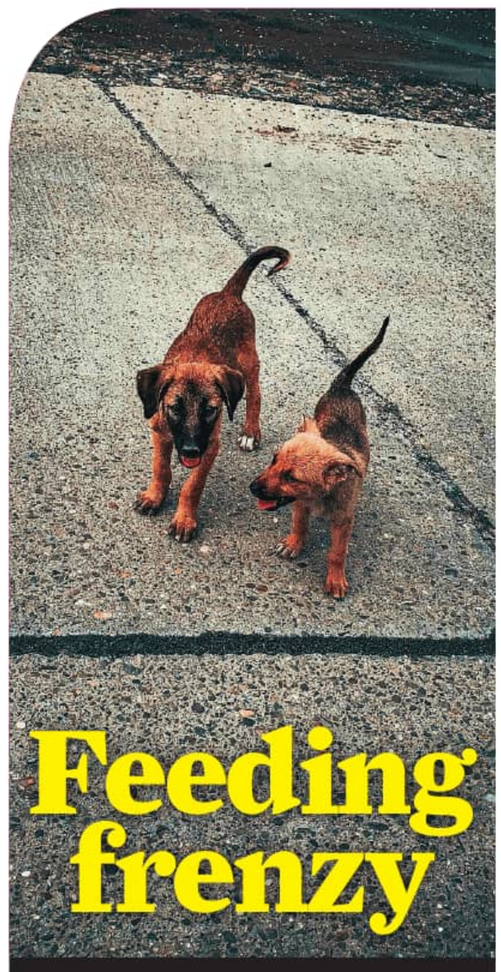

Feeding frenzy

No progress on identifying 50,000 feeding spots across city for strays

CITY PAGE 5

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THINGS TO DO

01 Festive jam

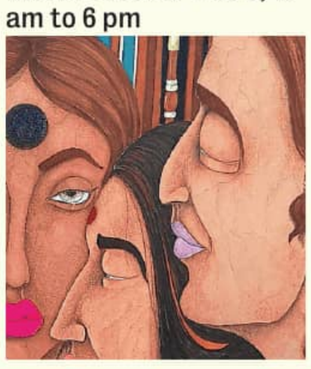
One Mic is presenting 'Dil Wali Diwali–Pre Diwali Celebration', a live jamming session offering an evening full of melodies, laughter and festive spirit. **Where: Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala; When: October 4, 5.30 pm**

02 Hear to help

Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, in collaboration with ALIMCO Bengaluru, is organising a free hearing aid distribution camp for the underprivileged. **Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal (For registration); When: Starting October 3**

03 Canvas of compassion

An art show titled 'The Chimeric Concoction' is being held as a fundraising effort by artist Aparna Rajapandian. A part of the proceeds will be given to Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre (CARE). **Where: Art Houz, Vasanth Nagar; When: October 3 to 5, 10 am to 6 pm**



04 Timeless tunes

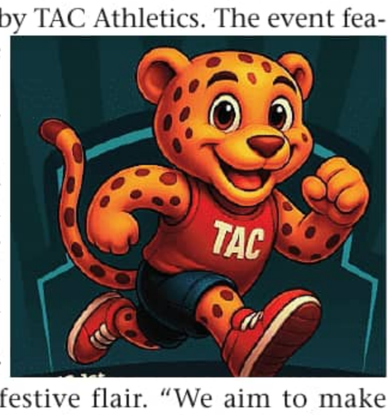
Culture Haus is presenting 'Riwaayat' where legendary singer Hariharan will be offering an evening of soulful ghazals and deeply emotive vocals in a transcendent performance. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: October 4, 7.30 pm**

05 Boundless education

Education in Ireland is set to host its flagship 'Education in Ireland Fair', bringing together representatives and academics from 21 Irish universities and colleges, along with officials from the Irish Visa Office, offering students and parents the opportunity to gain first-hand insights on studying in Ireland. **Where: Taj MG Road; When: October 5, 12 pm to 4 pm**

Fitness, fun and family engagement with TAC Athletics

Over 1,500 children, parents, and sports lovers gathered at GKVK Grounds on September 28, 2025, for India's first Mini Marathon & Sports Fest hosted by TAC Athletics. The event featured competitive races (4.2km, 1km) and fun parent-child runs (400m, 200m), followed by workshops in football, pickleball, archery, and more. A carnival zone with music, food, and toddler play areas added festive flair. "We aim to make sports joyful and inclusive," said Ankita Gaur, Founder of FitCommunity. With strong turnout and feedback, TAC Athletics plans to expand the initiative to Hyderabad and beyond, promoting youth fitness nationwide. **— BMB**



Doctors warn of eye damage caused by unchecked diabetes

Many patients discover diabetes only after eye symptoms appear, making regular screening essential to prevent vision loss and catch condition early, say doctors

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Doctors at the government-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital have expressed concern over the rising number of diabetic retinopathy (DR) cases in the city, cautioning that the condition can lead to blindness if left untreated.

Diabetic retinopathy develops when elevated blood sugar levels damage the tiny blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye. This damage can cause the vessels to leak, swell, or close entirely, potentially resulting in permanent vision loss if not addressed.

Diabetes mellitus is a chronic disorder that affects the body's ability to regulate blood sugar. It arises when the body either does not produce sufficient insulin or cannot use insulin effectively. Poorly controlled diabetes can lead to long-term complications, including eye damage (diabetic retinopathy), kidney disease (nephropathy), nerve damage (neuropathy), cardiovascular issues such as heart disease and stroke, as well as foot problems, skin disorders, and an increased susceptibility to infections.

According to hospital records, the number of cases at the Retina Clinic has grown significantly over the past five years. In 2021, the hospital recorded 25,735 cases, which rose to 38,372 in 2022, 43,078 in 2023, and 48,035 in 2024. In just the first half of 2025, doctors have already treated 25,225 patients.

"Diabetic retinopathy contributes to nearly 4.8 per cent of the 37 million cases of blindness worldwide. A recent study in urban South India estimates that diabetes affects as much as 28 per cent of the adult population, and among them, 18 per cent are likely to have diabetic retinopathy," said Dr Ravi B, Assistant Professor, at Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, adding that with India being referred to as the 'diabetes capital of the world', the risk of vision loss is significant. He explained that risk factors such as family history, obesity, physical inactivity, stress, alcohol intake, and abnormal cholesterol or triglyceride levels further increase the chances of developing DR.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), in India, there are estimated 77 million people above the age of 18 years are suffering from diabetes (type 2) and nearly 25 million are prediabetics (at a higher risk of developing diabetes in near future). More than 50 per cent of people are unaware of their diabetic status which leads to health complications if not detected and treated early. Adults with diabetes have a two- to three-fold increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. Combined with reduced blood flow, neuropathy (nerve damage) in the feet increases the chance of foot ulcers, infection, and the eventual need for limb amputation.

A major concern, doctors say, is the lack of awareness. Dr Shashidar Swamy, in charge of Retina Clinic, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, said that in many cases, patients are unaware they have diabetes until they develop eye-related symptoms and undergo an eye check-up. "Sometimes the patient doesn't even know they have diabetes. They come to us with vision problems, and only after tests we find they have diabetic retinopathy," said Dr Swamy.

Dr Suresh Babu, Director of Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, added that while early stages are often asymptomatic, the condition is characterised by progressive damage to retinal blood vessels, potentially leading to swelling, bleeding, and irreversible vision impairment or blindness in advanced stages. "It is a must for every individual with diabetes to get screened every year. We have seen patients under 40 with diabetes who later come to us with DR. This is also a socio-economic burden, as many of them are the breadwinners of the family. When their vision is lost, it affects the entire household," said Dr Babu. He said that the most effective way to prevent vision loss is to manage diabetes properly. "If you have diabetes, it is recommended to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam every year with an eye care professional, even if your eyesight appears normal," he said.

Doctor says most effective way to prevent vision loss is to manage diabetes properly

Doctors warn that diabetic retinopathy usually affects both eyes and early symptoms may not be noticeable. As it progresses, patients may experience floaters, blurred or fluctuating vision, impaired colour vision, dark spots, or sudden vision loss. Treatment options available include laser therapy to seal leaky blood vessels, anti-VEGF and steroid injections to reduce swelling, and vitrectomy surgery for severe cases involving bleeding or scar tissue.

Govt issues guidelines for college guest lecturers

The Department of Collegiate Education has issued fresh guidelines for the appointment of guest lecturers in government degree colleges for the 2025-26 academic year. Principals have been directed to continue the services of guest lecturers who worked during 2024-25, depending on workload availability, until the end of the semester. A merit-based list of eligible candidates has been published on the department's website, and colleges must ensure lecturers report for duty by October 4. Those failing to do so will be dropped from consideration, while any remaining workload will be filled through online selection in accordance with court directives. **— BMB**

Academic calendar revised for UG and PG courses

The Higher Education Department has revised the academic calendar for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in 25 universities, following delays in guest lecturer appointments. The move, which impacts over 3.2 lakh students in 440 government first-grade colleges, aims to make up for lost teaching days and ensure examinations remain effective. Semester timelines across universities have been extended, with Mysore University's academic term, for instance, pushed from October 23 to November 22. In some cases, the revised schedule will run up to January 10, 2026, allowing students more preparation time. **— BMB**

Citywide survey to begin today

A large-scale social and educational survey will begin across Bengaluru from October 3 or 4, with nearly 17,000 staff from various departments deployed for the exercise. Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwara Rao said enumerators have already been trained, and final ward-wise deployment will be completed on October 3. Around 80–90 enumerators will be assigned to each ward, covering Bengaluru's 32 lakh households, with each tasked to survey about 250 homes. Residents have been asked to keep Aadhaar and ration card details ready for verification. The survey is expected to be completed within 10–15 days, with exemptions only for those who are differently abled, unwell, or dealing with weddings or bereavements. Officials warned that absentees without valid reasons may face disciplinary action. **— BMB**

Woman harassed after falling in meter loan trap

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Even in the age of app-based lending, the city remains trapped in traditional high-interest "meter" loans. A shocking case has come to light in which a woman was lent over 2.5 crore and forced to pay up to 30% monthly interest.

The victim, Anita (30), alleged she had taken multiple loans between 2018 and 2025 from moneylenders in Prakash Nagar, including Anil, Sunita, Lalita, and Durgadevi. Though she repaid principal and interest on several occasions, the lenders continued to harass her, refusing to return 20 bank cheques taken as collateral and threatening her safety.

According to Cooperative Department officials, an FIR has been registered with the CCB against the accused for conducting unauthorised high-interest lending without licenses. Anita claimed that even after repaying 1.2 crore to Lalita or 43 lakh to Sumati, she was pressured for further payments. Durgadevi allegedly lent 1.4 crore at over 5% extra monthly interest, again without legal sanction.

Senior officials said the Cooperative Department has begun investigations following Anita's complaint. "The accused have been running illegal lending businesses without government permits, coercing borrowers, and even threatening their families. The FIR has been filed, and further investigation is underway," a senior officer confirmed. **–BMB**

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Caught in the web, B'luru turns cybercrime hub

NCRB data shows city accounts for 54% of India's cybercrimes, exposing policing gaps, low charge sheet rates, and rising online scams

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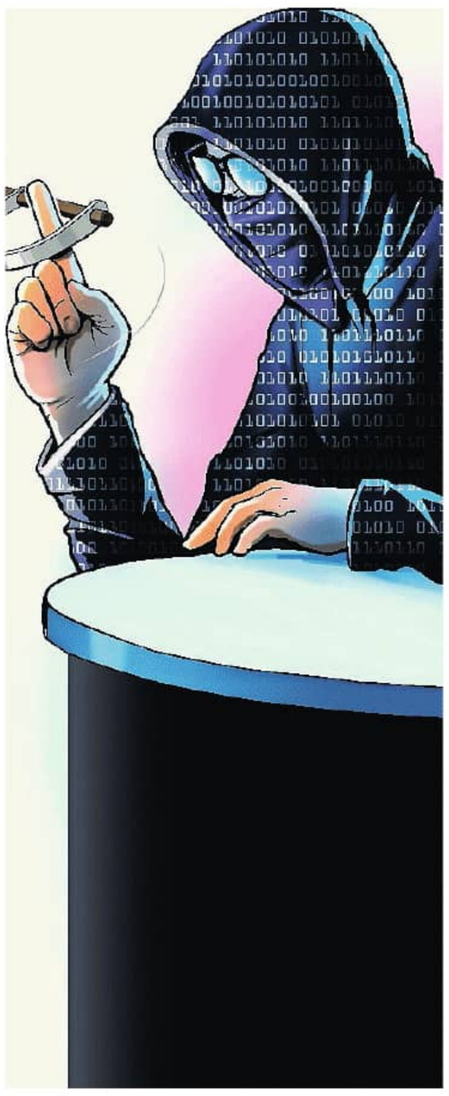
Bengaluru, often hailed as the Silicon Valley of India, has emerged as the country's cybercrime capital with the highest number of cases reported in 2023. Shockingly, the number of cybercrime incidents in the city alone surpassed the combined total of the next 10 major cities, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Alarming rise

The NCRB report reveals that Bengaluru registered 17,631 cybercrime cases in 2023, marking a 77.37% increase compared to 9,940 cases in 2022. The figures have more than doubled in just two years, with 6,423 cases recorded in 2021. In stark contrast, the next 10 cities on the list—including Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, and Lucknow—together accounted for 14,494 cases, far fewer than Bengaluru alone. This means 54% of India's total cybercrime cases originated from the tech hub.

Weak enforcement

Despite the alarming rise, enforcement remains weak. Only 18.1% of the cases led to charge sheets being filed, pointing to a significant gap in investigation and prosecution. Out of the total crimes, a majority—16,116 cases—were related to fraud, showcasing the dominance of scams and deceit in the city's digital crime landscape.



Bengaluru accounts for 54% of India's total cybercrime cases

State trends

At the state level, Karnataka reported 21,889 cybercrime cases in 2023, of which 18,602 were fraud related. Once again, only 18.1% progressed to the charge sheet stage, underlining systemic shortcomings in tackling these crimes. By comparison, Telangana recorded 18,236 cases with a charge sheet rate of 20.9%, while Uttar Pradesh reported 10,794 cases, but with a worrying 45.6% of cases pending without charge sheets.

Experts suggest that Bengaluru's prominence as IT hub, widespread digital adoption, and large population of tech-savvy users make it a prime target for cybercriminals

Disturbing lead

Experts suggest that Bengaluru's prominence as an IT hub, widespread digital adoption, and large population of tech-savvy users make it a prime target for cybercriminals. However, the city's inability to crack down on such offenses despite being the country's technology capital raises concerns over cybersecurity preparedness and law enforcement efficiency. "With cybercrime evolving in scale and sophistication, the NCRB data places Bengaluru at the center of India's battle against digital fraud—a battle that appears far from being won," said an activist.

Short circuit sparks blaze at Yelachenahalli building

CRIME FILES

A massive fire broke out on Wednesday morning at the Domino's Pizza building in Yelachenahalli, off Kanakapura Road, gutting 19 electric bikes parked in the basement. The blaze, which occurred near Kanakapura Road Metro Station, is suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit at an EV charging point.

According to police, the fire erupted around 7 am, reducing 19 electric two-wheelers to ashes. Preliminary reports indicate a suspected short circuit at the EV charging station that sparked the flames, which quickly spread across the parking area.

Locals immediately alerted the fire department, and two fire tenders rushed to the spot, bringing the situation under control.

The KS Layout Police confirmed a detailed probe is underway to ascertain the exact cause and examine possible safety lapses. **–BMB**

Hit & run near pothole: Driver arrested after a week

The Avalahalli police on Thursday arrested the driver involved in the hit-and-run accident that killed a 22-year-old student near Budigere Cross last week. The accused has been identified as Gerald Mondal, who hails from West Bengal.

The fatal crash occurred on the morning of August 29, around 8:50 am, when the victim, Dhanushree, lost balance on her two-wheeler while swerving to avoid a pothole. She fell onto the road and was run over by a passing tipper truck. The driver fled without stopping.

Police tracked the vehicle using CCTV footage from the area and later arrested Mondal. The incident triggered outrage among residents, who blamed the dangerous pothole-ridden Budigere Cross–Avalahalli stretch for repeated accidents. Her tragic death has reignited the debate on accountability of civic bodies and reckless drivers. Police said further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Promotion row: Chakravarthy to stay on as DGP

Senior IPS officer J Arun Chakravarthy will continue as Karnataka's Director General of Police (DGP) after court proceedings over promotion disputes. The matter came up before a vacation bench of Justices Suraj Govindaraj and Rajesh Rai following Chakravarthy's challenge to the Central Administrative Tribunal's interim stay on promotions. Arguments focused on seniority and the pending departmental inquiry against ADGP Alok Kumar. Government counsel submitted that promotions were withheld for Alok Kumar due to CBI-recommended disciplinary proceedings, while Chakravarthy's appointment faced no such bar. The bench recorded submissions and adjourned the case, allowing Chakravarthy to continue in his post. **–BMB**

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BWSSB plans solar-powered upgrade for Cauvery Stage 6

Switch to solar expected to save over ₹5 crore every month in electricity costs

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In a significant step towards sustainable urban development, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has proposed using solar-powered electricity for water supply operations under the forthcoming Cauvery Stage 6 project.

With growing concerns about environmental degradation, climate change, and global warming—caused largely by unchecked development—BWSSB has chosen green energy technology to ensure climate resilience. The plan is to reduce electricity costs by adopting solar power to pump water from the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Under Cauvery Stage 6, 500 million litres will be delivered daily from the KRS reservoir through a solar-driven network. Officials expect the model to lower operating costs and provide reliable resources to layouts and towns beyond the urban core

Green power to cut costs and emissions

A BWSSB official said, "The Cauvery Stage 6 project aims to supply an additional 6 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water to the city. Under this plan, 500 million litres of water will be supplied daily. The BWSSB estimates that using solar-generated electricity could cut monthly power expenses by approximately ₹5.77 crore."

The ₹5,177 crore Detailed Project Report (DPR) for drawing water from KRS to Bengaluru via the Ramanagara bypass is currently under government review. As part of the strategy, BWSSB intends to incorporate eco-friendly practices and reduce operational costs through innovative technologies.

An official added, "The solar power model is expected to be implemented at multiple stages of the project. This includes solar-powered systems for intake arrangements at KRS, water treatment plants, and clear water pumping stations. A solar power generation system will also be installed at the reservoir and pumping facilities, thereby reducing dependence on grid electricity."

Targeted water supply to outer areas

The water from the Cauvery Stage 6 project is designated for newly developing zones around Bengaluru. These include areas near Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, as well as the towns of Devanahalli, Hoskote, Anekal, Bidadi, and Nelamangala.

Currently, BWSSB draws 2,250 MLD (million litres per day) of water under Cauvery Stages 1 to 5 and spends approximately ₹86.07 crore per month on electricity. If a prorata comparison is made for the 500 MLD water supply under Stage 6, the estimated electricity cost stands at ₹19.13 crore per month. However, with solar integration, this could be reduced to ₹13.35 crore—a potential saving of ₹5.77 crore every month. "The move not only reduces operational expenses but also signals Bengaluru's commitment to sustainable and climate-resilient urban infrastructure," a BWSSB official added.

Fraudulent E-Khata for Vijinapura property causes furore

Vacant land shown as school building triggers legal complaint

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Ramamurthy Nagar Police have filed an FIR following a complaint that the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and now the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) revenue officials issued an e-khata for a property without verification.

The complaint was lodged by the property owners, who claimed that BBMP authorities had issued a fraudulent e-Khata to Kerala Samajam Secretary Radhakrishna AP. The property in question, Survey No. 94, measures 26,623 sq ft in Vijinapura, within the jurisdiction of Ramamurthy Nagar Police. In July 2022, the property owners submitted a copy of their complaint to the GBA Joint Commissioner, urging that no e-Khatas be issued. This was because multiple cases were pending in the City Civil Court (Case Nos. FDP 120/2004 and FDP 67/2002), with temporary injunctions prohibiting any transfer, registration, or mutation of ownership.

On September 23, 2025, the City Civil Judge issued another temporary injunction, preventing Kerala Samajam from undertaking any construction or property transactions. "It is unfortunate to say that this legal battle has been fought since the day of Independence and has not reached finality even after 75 years. It is a mockery of justice. The parties have been litigating for more than 75 years without a final result, which is nothing but an abuse of the court's process. There is a strong necessity to halt the legal proceedings by taking coercive steps on each application and disposing of the matter speedily to grant immediate relief, in order to maintain the faith and confidence of the general public in the judicial system," the court order read.

In February 2025, one of the property owners, Yatish M, approached the BBMP Joint Commissioner of Mahadevapura Zone, requesting that no e-Khata be issued for the disputed property. Prior to this, Yatish had also contacted the Inspector General of Registration, seeking cancellation of sale deeds allegedly registered fraudulently, following statements by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

The vacant land on July 10, 2025

The shocking aspect is that the land in question is vacant, yet the BBMP authorities issued a fraudulent e-khata, claiming that a school building already existed on the land.

Smt Renuka V Reddy, another property owner, had lodged a complaint with Ramamurthy Nagar Police on July 7, 2025. Despite this, BBMP issued a new provisional e-Khata on July 10, 2025, and allegedly issued a final e-Khata to the school management on July 25, 2025. The certificate reportedly lacked a digital signature, raising questions about its authenticity.

Under BBMP rules, only the Joint Commissioner is authorised to issue e-Khatas for large properties such as this. Upon enquiry, the Joint Commissioner of Mahadevapura Zone denied issuing the e-Khata. A BBMP employee, Basavaraj, reportedly confirmed to Yatish that the e-Khata was fraudulent and advised filing an additional objection.

With no other option, Yatish approached Ramamurthy Nagar Police, lodging a complaint against the BBMP authorities and Kerala Samajam Secretary. The police registered an FIR on August 1 under Sections 228, 318(4), 329(3), 335, 336(1), 336(2), 336(3), 340(2), read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023. However, the Ramamurthy Nagar Police have yet to take action against the accused, even after two months.

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Debris threat

Rajaji Nagar

Mounds of earth and debris outside KLE College, Rajaji Nagar, continue to pose a safety hazard at night long after road repairs; urgent clearance is required.

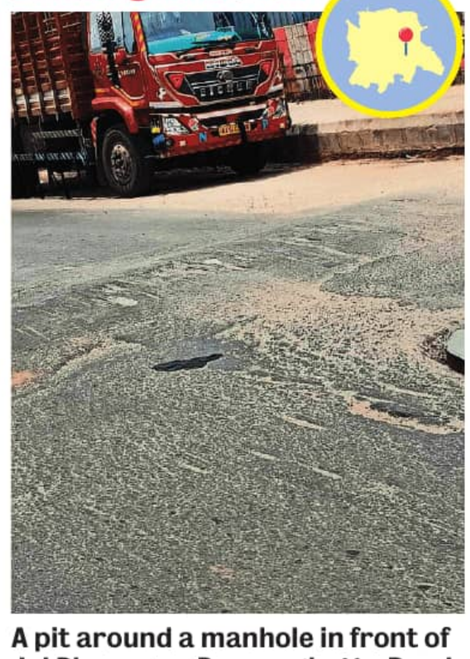
Footpath fury

Richmond Road

Riding on the footpath is rampant along Richmond Road, endangering pedestrians.

Manhole trap

Bannerghatta Road



A pit around a manhole in front of Jal Bhavan on Bannerghatta Road is forcing two-wheelers to swerve, leading to accidents.

No sign of 50,000 feeding spots promised for strays

Process of identification of feeding spots for stray dogs was on hold for some time but has recently resumed, says official from one of city corporation offices

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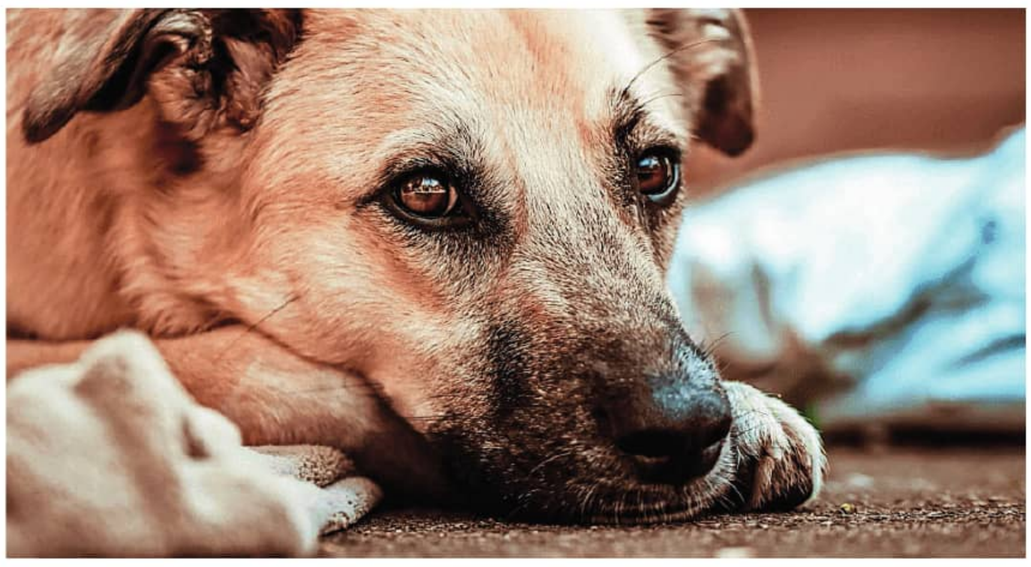

More than a month ago, on August 22, the Supreme Court instructed civic authorities nationwide to establish dedicated feeding spots in each municipal ward, with the apex body mandating the feeding of stray dogs only at these designated feeding points.

Following the order, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) declared that nearly 50,000 designated feeding spots will be identified across Bengaluru.

A senior official from the Health and Education Department of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) told Bangalore Mirror that instructions and guidance have been given to the respective city corporations, responsible for executing the idea, to identify and designate feeding spots.

"The Health Department is the guiding force, and the responsibility to execute the order lies with the five city corporations. We issued instructions, in writing, to the corporations a couple of weeks ago. They have also been informed about the steps to be taken to execute the process, and sufficient time has lapsed since then," said the GBA official.

According to some city corporation offices, the implementation of the SC's order is delayed due to the recent administrative transition from BBMP to GBA.

"The process to identify feeding spots for stray dogs was on hold for some time. However, it has recently resumed. The spots are being identified based on requirement, and so far, no instructions have been issued on the number of spots," said a senior official from one of the city corporation offices.

Animal welfare workers say while GBA (then BBMP) along with the Police Department moved swiftly following SC's first order, the enthusiasm and speed to implement SC's final order to assign feeding spots has been missing.

Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, a city-based NGO working actively in assisting feeders in harassment cases, feeding spot assignments, conflict resolution, and FIR filing process in the city, said that nearly a month back, a state-level ABC meeting was organised, and a senior official of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services informed that all DCs have been notified to follow ABC rules and implement the SC order at the earliest. "However, BBMP was soon dissolved, and as the new commissioners are warming up to changes, the feeding spot assignment has been very slow in GBA areas," said Hegde.

Hegde says if the GBA's actions are delayed, there will be a complete lack of order and expertise in implementing SC's order at the panchayat level. She underlined that various housing societies are waiting for panchayat officials to assign feeding spots, but are being stonewalled.

Residents from Prestige Tranquility claim that while they have followed up with Mandur Gram Panchayat on multiple occasions, there has been a lack of will in taking up the issue. "Feeders have been threatened and continue to face harassment. However, panchayat officials have not extended any support," said a resident of Prestige Tranquility.

Monsoon deficit despite excess Sept rain in B'luru

Bengaluru registered 16 per cent excess rainfall this September even as the overall southwest monsoon season ended with a 9 per cent deficit. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) observatory in the city measured 242 mm of rainfall in September against the normal 208.3 mm, while the total southwest monsoon (June–September) stood at 549.3 mm against the seasonal norm of 597.7 mm. September was also notably cool, with the average maximum temperature at 27.7°C, nearly a degree lower than the climatological normal of 28.7°C, making it the coolest September in five years.

Monsoon extended by two weeks

Across Karnataka, the southwest monsoon—which usually withdraws by September 30—will continue until October 15, according to IMD Bengaluru Director CS Patil. He noted that the northeast monsoon will set in after mid-October, bringing rains mainly to the southern interior districts. "This year, the northeast monsoon is expected to be normal, with heavy rainfall likely over the southern interior, while coastal and north interior Karnataka may see below-average rains," he said.

Statewide rainfall pattern

Despite the deficit in Bengaluru, Karnataka as a whole has recorded slightly more than normal rainfall during this southwest monsoon. —BMB

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B'luru residents rally in support of Ladakh's cause

Participants of peaceful gathering organised in Freedom Park

A peaceful gathering was held at Freedom Park, where a group of city residents came together to express solidarity with the people of Ladakh and to voice support for freedom of expression and the democratic right to protest peacefully.

Carrying placards and banners, the demonstrators highlighted the ongoing struggle of Ladakhis who have been pressing for constitutional safeguards and special protections for their ecologically fragile and culturally distinct region. Many of the slogans and messages were also in support of Sonam Wangchuk, the prominent educationist and environmentalist from Ladakh, whose arrest has sparked concerns among activists and civil society groups across the country.

Many citizens in Bengaluru have also been following developments in Ladakh, even if they were not directly part of the demonstration. A retired schoolteacher shared that the events in Ladakh reminded her of the importance of safeguarding democratic freedoms. "I am not part of any protest, but I do worry about the way things are going. If people cannot speak up peacefully, then what kind of message are we sending to the younger generation about democracy?" she asked.

For others, the issue was less about politics and more about the environment. A software professional who had once visited Ladakh on a trekking trip recalled its delicate ecosystem. "When I travelled there, I saw how fragile the mountains and rivers were. If local voices like Sonam Wangchuk's are silenced, then who will raise these concerns? We cannot afford to destroy such a unique landscape," he said.

Some younger citizens in the city said they had only recently begun to learn about Ladakh's constitutional demands. A college student explained, "I didn't know much about the Sixth Schedule or statehood, but when I read about it online, I understood why people are asking for it." —BMB

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Citizens' group opposes plan to slash buffer zone around lakes

Experts warn proposed Bill poses threat to city's biodiversity

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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File photo of Nayandahalli Lake

City-based organisation submits memorandum to urban development dept highlighting potential environmental damage, urges state government to expand, rather than shrink existing buffer areas

Bengaluru Town Hall, a city-based citizen group, has approached the Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department (UDD), opposing the proposal to amend buffer zone laws and drastically reduce them.

In a memorandum submitted, the civil society group outlined the dangers posed by the proposed draft regulations to ecology, water security, biodiversity, food security, the environment, and citizens overall.

Members say the proposed bill poses a grave threat to Bengaluru's remaining green cover, could lead to pollution of the city's lakes, erase biodiversity, exacerbate climate change impacts, and worsen the groundwater crisis.

Notably, on September 15, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot returned the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority Amendment Bill 2025 (KTCDA Amendment Bill 2025) to the state government.

Through the Bill, the State Government has proposed amending Section 12 of the KTCDA Act, 2014, to introduce area-wise buffer zones for water bodies and to permit the construction of certain public utility activities—such as roads, bridges, electrical lines, water supply lines, underground drainage lines, pump houses or sewage treatment plants, intermediate sewage pumping stations, wet wells, and other allied works—with prior approval of the authority.

The association, in its memorandum, described the bill as unscientific, unsustainable, and unacceptable.

"Bengaluru will be left a concrete desert, unlivable for all of us. We request the State Government to withdraw and cancel the notification, and to consider increasing the Rajakaluve buffer zone instead of reducing it, as the existing buffer zones are far below the required levels for healthy water bodies," the memorandum stated.

According to international scientific research, buffer zones of approximately 100 to 300 metres or more are required for stormwater drains to preserve ecosystem integrity, biodiversity, flood control, and water quality.

City-based civic activists and environmentalists have alleged that the KTCDA Amendment Bill 2025 violates constitutional and environmental laws. They claim the amendment favours real estate development, has been drafted without expert consultation, and endangers overall water security and lake ecosystems.

"The announcement of road projects on the Rajakaluve buffer zones by the State Government, which violates the operative laws on buffer zones, appears to be a misguided attempt by the Government to destroy the wetland ecosystem remaining in Bengaluru," said members of Bengaluru Town Hall.

New ration cards stuck due to BPL card revision

The distribution of new ration cards in Karnataka has been on hold for nearly two years due to the ongoing revision of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards. Although the government approved new card issuance in September 2023, lakhs of applications remain pending, officials admit. Karnataka has the highest number of BPL cards in South India, with about 1.28 crore cards covering nearly 4 crore people. Officials say many Above Poverty Line (APL) families are holding BPL cards, which has slowed the verification process.

Applications for new ration cards have not been stopped, but fresh distribution awaits the completion of the revision. This delay has created difficulties for families separated from joint households and for those without APL cards, as ration cards are mandatory for accessing several government schemes. Authorities say priority is being given to urgent cases, and fresh distribution may begin in October. However, applicants complain that despite applying over a year ago and making repeated visits to offices, their ration cards are yet to be issued. **–BMB**

CM pays homage to Gandhi, Shastri: 'Trying to follow path'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries and prayed for the strength to follow the path shown by them.

"We are trying to follow the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. The country attained freedom under Gandhi's leadership. His struggle and sacrifice secured this freedom. So, in remembering him, I pray for the strength to follow the path he showed," Siddaramaiah said. Speaking to reporters, he also paid tributes to Lal Bahadur Shastri, recalling him as the "most honest person".

CM Siddaramaiah pays homage to national leaders

"I also pray for the strength to follow the path he showed," he added. The Chief Minister also extended greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Vijayadashami. **–PTI**

Shakti scheme sets World Record

The State Government's flagship women's empowerment initiative, the 'Shakti scheme', has achieved yet another global milestone. With over 500 crore worth of free bus tickets issued to women, the scheme has now been recognised by the International Book of Records – World Record of Excellence.

Previously, the Shakti scheme had already been listed in the Golden Book of World Records, underscoring its consistent impact and success.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai, extended his heartfelt gratitude to officers, employees, and labour union leaders of the four State Road Transport Corporations for their contribution to the initiative.

The scheme, which provides free bus travel for women across the state, has empowered them economically, socially, and professionally.

The Minister expressed pride that the scheme has now added yet another world record to its achievements and congratulated all women passengers for being part of this landmark milestone. **–BMB**

Centre sets up panel after surge in student suicides

The Union Government has set up a National Task Force on Suicide Prevention to address the growing number of student suicides in colleges and universities. The move comes after the Supreme Court took serious note of the rising cases in higher education and professional institutions. The task force will be headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat and will look into the root causes leading to suicides among students.

Rising academic pressure

With competitive entrance tests becoming the gateway to professional courses, students are increasingly under pressure to perform. Many are pushed into coaching centres by parents eager for them to secure seats at the national level. Caught between parental expectations and coaching demands, several students are losing resilience and turning to extreme steps. A recent case at a private university, where a student was expelled from class for alleged malpractice, ended tragically in suicide, highlighting the urgent need for systemic intervention.

Sources said that the task force will study the impact of ragging, discrimination, academic pressure, financial difficulties, and the stigma around mental health — all of which contribute to student suicides. It will also examine other factors affecting student wellbeing and recommend practical measures to strengthen mental health support and prevent suicides.

The government has invited students, parents, and the general public to share suggestions on preventive measures through the official portal ntf.education.gov.in. This step is expected to open broader discussions on mental health and build a collaborative framework for solutions.

NCRB Data: 13,044 student suicides in 2023

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 13,044 students died by suicide in India in 2023, accounting for 7.6% of all suicides in the country. India currently has more than 60,380 higher education institutions with 44.6 million enrolled students, making the issue both widespread and urgent.

Since its formation, the task force has already collected input from over 80,000 students, 10,000 teachers, 15,000 parents, and 700 mental health professionals through structured consultations. Their experiences will feed into the recommendations for a robust suicide-prevention strategy in educational institutions.

Welcoming the initiative, Sukumari D, an activist, said: "Many students suffer in silence under the weight of pressure and feel suicide is the only escape. For decades, our organisation has been working to provide emotional support, and the government's decision to form this task force is indeed a positive step." **–BMB**

Over 500 residents of an apartment complex participated in and celebrated Durgotsav, a Navaratri festival, with Ramayana skit, traditional dances such as garba, dhunuchi and sindhoor khela in Seegahalli, on Thursday

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Dasara exodus turns city commutes into smooth rides

Two days of minimal traffic left Bengaluru commuters in disbelief, with ORR and Sarjapur Road flowing freely unlike any typical weekday morning

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With around 90 percent of Bengaluru's usual crowd away, the city's roads were nearly empty as residents travelled to Mysuru for Dasara celebrations and the long weekend. On October 1st and 2nd, the notorious Outer Ring Road (ORR), usually clogged with bumper-to-bumper traffic, appeared almost deserted. Commuters, accustomed to crawling through gridlocks, were able to reach their destinations in record time, prompting many to liken the calm to "lockdown vibes."

Several commuters took to X (formerly Twitter) to share their disbelief and delight. One wrote, "Seems like the entire Bangaluru left the city. Reached office in record time, 5 kms – 10 mins!" Another user, crossing the usually nightmarish Sarjapur Road–ORR junction, echoed, "Same, 6.5 km in 12 mins. That's crossing Sarjapur Rd-ORR junction."

Others shared similar experiences. "14 km in 25 mins – today. But then Bengaluru whispered, 'Don't get used to it,'" joked one. Another described the day as extraordinary: "6.5 km in just 13 min! No traffic at the Marathahalli junction on ORR!! What a miracle. Looks like Bangalore traffic took a coffee break—and forgot to come back! Time to enjoy this rare 'weekend' on a weekday!"

City roads nearly deserted, reminiscent of lockdown vibes

Several commuters took to X (formerly Twitter) to share their disbelief and delight. One wrote, "Seems like the entire Bangaluru left the city. Reached office in record time, 5 kms – 10 mins!"

One commuter, travelling from JP Nagar to Kadubeesanahalli, reported completing his typically long and frustrating ride in just 25 minutes. Relishing the rare freedom, he even stopped for breakfast and a short walk before work—luxuries unimaginable on a normal weekday. His post read, "Felt like this how ORR traffic should be! Arrived at the office in just 25 mins, JP Nagar to Kadubeesanahalli. Went for breakfast and walk, which was pleasant! Cherry on top is a good, shiny day!"

Another commuter could hardly believe his luck: "I reached office from HSR to Kadubeesanahalli in 13 minutes. THIRTEEN MINUTES!!" Yet another shared, "I just opened Reddit to make a similar post. It took me just 38 mins from Electronic City to Mahadevapura."

"Same time next week... Travel Time 1 hour 25 mins," one user warned. Another commented, "Don't jinx it... maybe you will be lucky tomorrow also. Then things will be back to BLR mode."

Festivals behind the calm

Many speculated that the timing wasn't coincidental. With the last two days of Navratri—Maha Navami and Vijayadashami—a significant portion of the city's workforce likely stayed off the roads. Offices running on lean staff, people travelling for festivities, and schools being shut created a rare vacuum on stretches like ORR, Sarjapur Road, and Marathahalli junction, usually among Bengaluru's worst traffic choke points.

The ORR, designed decades ago to divert vehicles around the city's core, has long since become one of Bengaluru's busiest corridors, burdened daily by office traffic from sprawling IT hubs. On a typical weekday, a commute that should take 25 minutes easily stretches to over an hour, sometimes longer. The sudden emptiness highlighted both the fragility of Bengaluru's traffic ecosystem and the potential for relief if pressure is eased.

A case for work-from-home?

The unexpected smooth flow of traffic also reignited debate on whether large-scale adoption of work-from-home (WFH) policies could be a solution to Bengaluru's infamous commute woes. Commuters and residents online suggested that if companies allowed maximum flexibility for employees to work remotely, peak-hour pressure on arterial roads could drastically reduce, giving the city more mornings like the one witnessed this festive week.

Some argued that the government might consider promoting or mandating hybrid work patterns, at least in high-density tech corridors, to help ease traffic snarls on working days. For now, Bengalureans are enjoying the rare calm across major roads and junctions, covering in minutes what usually takes hours. But most expect the usual gridlocks to return soon, with the ORR and other key arteries reverting to their familiar traffic grind.

IN BRIEF

Guard ends life after mobile addiction issues

An 18-year-old security guard, Ambrish Thapa from Nepal, tragically took his own life at his rented home in the Varthur police station area on Thursday.

Having arrived a few months earlier for work, Ambrish stopped attending his job after receiving two months' salary and spent most of his time on his mobile phone, primarily playing games.

His elder brother, Rahul, who lived with him, repeatedly scolded him for wasting time and not working. Rahul also said their parents encouraged Ambrish to return home, but he declined. Reports suggest he had attempted suicide a few days ago following an argument with family members over the same issue.

Experts note that mobile phone addiction among migrant laborers like Ambrish is linked to decreased work attendance, increased family tension, and mental health issues.

This is reportedly the fourth suicide among migrant workers in a month, highlighting the growing role of mobile and gaming addiction in such tragedies. The incidents underscore the urgent need for awareness programs and support systems to address mental health challenges faced by migrant laborers. –BMB

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FARNAZ

'Mallikarjun Kharge's health is in good condition'

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday said that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is recovering well and his health is currently in good condition.

Kharge, 83, recently underwent pacemaker implantation and has been reported as stable. He is expected to resume his official engagements from October 3, according to his son and Karnataka IT Minister, Priyank Kharge. Speaking to reporters, Karnataka Minister Parameshwara said, "Our leader and President of the All India Congress Committee, Mallikarjun Kharge, experienced respiratory issues and breathing problems. The day before yesterday, he was taken to Ramaya Hospital. I just met him this morning. He is in good condition."

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday thanked party leaders, cadres, and supporters for their wishes after his pacemaker surgery."My sincere thanks to the Congress cadres, leaders and supporters for the outpouring of wishes. My deepest gratitude. I intend to start my work schedule soon," he said.

Kharge is scheduled to visit Kohima on October 7 and address a public rally at Naga Solidarity Park. Lok Sabha MP S Supongmeren Jamir, President of the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee, made the announcement during a press conference at Congress Bhavan in Kohima. —ANI

Quality monitoring systems is air & there

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the city has also been underlined.

Similarly, the real-time air quality monitoring stations across Karnataka with a buffer zone of 2 km are covering only 0.2% of the total area, leaving 99.8% of the geographical area in data shadow.

Currently, Bengaluru has 11 CAAQMs, covering residential, commercial, industrial, and silent zones in the city, and air quality is monitored round the clock for primary and secondary pollutants as well as meteorological parameters.

No design standards

Experts say there are no universal design standards for an air quality monitoring network to have an absolute idea about the adequacy of the monitoring grid, and mostly, a broad framework with a set of criteria is used to decide the adequacy. The criteria are based on factors such as areas where the most people live, pollutants they are exposed to, pollutants of concern, pollution challenges in different land uses, patterns of exposure in the micro environment, and the need for a daily public alert system.

> **"Having 11 stations in different areas based on land use is not adequate. Moreover, the majority of these stations are surrounded by greenery or water bodies that absorb pollutants**
>
> –Gufran Beig, NIAS

City-based researchers and air quality experts say the AQI of Bengaluru is not a true representation of its microclimate, mainly due to an uneven and sparse air quality monitoring network.

Moreover, while Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) does not have a standard to deduce the exact number of monitoring stations for a given location, Bengaluru can follow guidelines by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on the location of CAAQMS stations, which states that the stations should be distributed scientifically in different micro-environments.

Experts opine that most of the monitoring stations in the city are installed in relatively cleaner surroundings, away from emission-emitting vehicles or industries.

"The CAAQMS should be distributed in such a way that they represent the overall picture. As per WMO, these stations should cover residential areas, slums, downtown areas, traffic, and industrial areas. Moreover, CAAQMS should also be installed at inflow and outflow points. However, these boundaries are not clear in the case of Bengaluru, and thus, having 11 stations in different areas based on land use is not adequate. Moreover, the majority of these stations are surrounded by greenery or water bodies that absorb pollutants," said Professor Gufran Beig, chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

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MYSELF Shorya Mittal S/o Nitin Mittal R/o D 1404, Concorde Manhattans, Neeladri Road, Electronic City Bengaluru 560100, have changed my name to Shaurya Mittal vide affidavit certificate no IN-KA51740348712476X dated 23 September, signed before Notary Public, Bangalore.

I, MOHAMMED ANWAR PASHA, R/a.#71/6,9th Main Road, Devaraj Urs Nagar, Bengaluru-560026. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED ANWAR Vide affidavit dated 01/10/2025 Sworn before Notary HS. Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore

I Kamalashile Nataraj Shashwat Nataraj r/o C - 210 chartered madhura uttarahalli main road uttarahalli Bengaluru- 560061 have changed my name to Kamalashile Nataraj Shashwat

I Deepu Dinesh Jain W/O, Dinesh Bhikam Chand R/o No 555 9th Main Near Water Tank M C Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru - 560040 have changed my name to Deepu Dinesh.

I, Ashok Kanthan, D420, Tower D, Republic of Whitefield, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066 have changed my minor son name from Aadvik Siddarth Ashok Kanthan to Aadvik Siddarth

I Guruprasad S/O, Thirupathaya R/o 55 Bharathi Nagar Hunusamaranahalli Post Bangalore North 562157 have changed my name to Guruprasad T.

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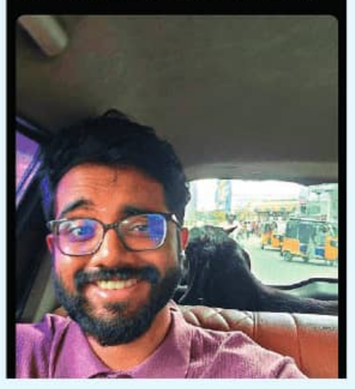
SOCIALTATTLE

Image of the day This auto is highly welcoming. X user @aneetta_joby_ captions it: An auto in Bangalore. I'm sure he has daughters.

That went viral
Viral video : https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPTt-gSk6wW/?igsh=anhtcjRlaW9xN3Yx
The sheer joy of reclaiming a footpath! Sarjapur Rd kids enjoying themselves. After they participated in a transformation involving GBA, BMRCL, Mahadevapura Task Force and 100+ volunteers

Tale of two goats: Bengaluru man's viral cab selfie with goat sparks laughter online: 'Two GOATs, one pic'. https://x.com/Basi_cally/status/1972911083074802007



3) Bangalore Mirror mentioned Our story on Hosur Road subway transformation caught this X user's eye.
...

Sandeep Singh @sandeep_hi · Sep 29
Replying to @sandeep_hi @OfficialBMRCL and 2 others
The transformation of the Hosur Road subways in recent weeks has been truly remarkable, thanks to @NHAI_Official team.
This got covered in today's Bangalore Mirror:
Read more at:
Residents' perseverance restores Kudlu Gate subway
From bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com

Skarsgard replaces Dev Patel — Swedish actor Alexander Skarsgard is set to star alongside Olivia Colman in "Wicker". The actor is replacing Dev Patel in the film, who was supposed to feature alongside Colman

BangaloreMirror | 9
Friday, October 3, 2025
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Visual treat, but plot fails to hold

KANTARA: A LEGEND CHAPTER-1
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Rishab Shetty
- **ACTORS** Rishab Shetty, Rukmini Vasanth, Gulshan Devaiah, Jayaram, Pramod Shetty, & Prakash Tumminad
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 168 minutes

Kantara created a history in the annals of Sandalwood and now Rishab Shetty, who plays the lead and directs its prequel, has put in all efforts to justify his decision to make this movie. Each and every frame of the movie reflects Shetty's hard work. Cinematographer Aravind Kashyap has done an excellent job behind the camera to make this movie a visual treat. If the editor Suresh Mallaiah applied scissors to remove unnecessary scenes, the movie would have been a good entertainer and also a relief for audiences because the current runtime of the movie is 168 minutes.

The transformation of characters in the movie also seems unjustified. For example, the director forgets to elaborate why Kanakavathy (Rukmini Vasanth), the daughter of king Rajasekhara, who is born with health issues and is breastfed by a slave, becomes greedy and malevolent when she grows up. The director, art director, and editor also fail to give a scope of the size of Rajasekhara's kingdom. We only get to see a lot of soldiers but nothing of the kingdom. The focus was only on one hall, an open ground and a temple under construction and a port.

The movie is about Eshwara Hoodhota in Kantara forest. King Rajasekhara (Jayaram), haunted by the forest and wrath of Brahmarakshasa, advises his children Kulasekhara and Kanakavathy not to enter the forest. However, Kulasekhara (Gulshan Devaiah), being arrogant and a drunk, enters the forest and invites trouble. Meanwhile, Berme (Rishab Shetty), fostered by tribal people of Eshwara Hoodhota, enters the kingdom along with his followers. He finds how natural resources from Eshwara Hoodhota are being sold to Arabs and Portuguese traders. He happens to meet Kanakavathy. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Berme and Kanakavathy. The film is overflowing with rituals, action and gory scenes. Comedy scenes lack humour and look incongruous.

As far as performances of the actors are concerned, Shetty has tried to prove his mettle once again. Rukmini Vasanth looks gorgeous and it will be difficult for audiences to see her in how her role evolves. Gulshan Devaiah has acted well. Jayaram provides good support. Pramod Shetty, known for playing police inspector roles in Kannada movies, plays Bhogendra in the movie. The runtime overshoots by 10 to 20 minutes and risks making it too tedious for the audience. The first half of the movie seems to be a bit dreary.

If you want to know the history of Kantara, you can catch this movie.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

CALLING FROM CLOUD NINE

Ishaan reveals his reaction when he came to know Homebound is India's Oscar's entry

Ishaan Khatter was literally "on cloud nine" when he received the news about his latest film Homebound being selected as India's official entry to the Oscars this year. The actor revealed that he was on a flight back from New York when the announcement came through.

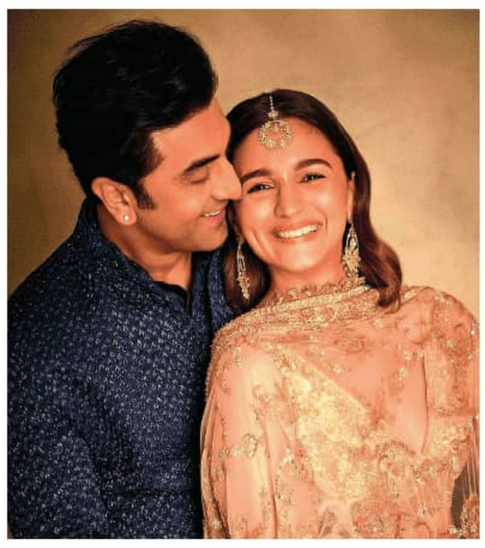
"I was in an airplane and I had Wi-Fi on the flight, which kept coming and going. And then for one-two hours, there was a lapse of Wi-Fi. And finally, when the connectivity came back, my phone started blowing up and I started getting all these calls from random people," Ishaan recalled in an exclusive conversation with ETimes.

The actor said he was taken aback by the flurry of calls, including from the director of the film Neeraj Ghaywan, who had a rather unique way of breaking the news to him. "Neeraj for the first time in two years was cussing me. I told him I was on a flight and what had happened and that's when I realised that we've finally made the entry."

Khatter, who had flown with the team of Homebound to the Toronto International Film Festival, had then had a stayover in New York for some work and it was on his return trip that he got to know about the Oscar selection. "It was when I was coming back from New York after the Toronto Film Festival and doing some work and meetings in New York. I realized that I was coming back for the release, that was a big victory for us as the film was finally hitting the theaters and we had received our censor certificate . So the last thing on my mind was the Oscar selection. In fact , none of us were expecting the announcement , it came as a surprise. So, I was literally on cloud nine when it happened."

—ETimes

Meet the parents



In a recent interview, Alia Bhatt opened up on her bonding with Ranbir Kapoor. She also spoke about how is Ranbir and Raha's bond, recalling the time when her father Mahesh Bhatt first met Ranbir.

Talking about her first conversation with Mahesh Bhatt about Ranbir, Alia said on Twinkle Khanna and Kajol's show 'Too Much', "My father and I talked about me being in love once. That was the one and only time we spoke. I told him I'm in love and he said, 'I see it in your eyes, my child.'"

Recalling Bhatt's first meeting with Ranbir, Alia said, "He (Mahesh Bhatt) was once dropping me to Ranbir's home, and he said, 'Call him down. I want to meet him.' And then Ranbir came down, and he did this to him... (Alia imitated Mahesh Bhatt by putting her hand on Ranbir's head and also showed how Ranbir bowed down with his hands folded).' That was the moment, there was no advice, he just saw it in our eyes and he was really happy for us."

While Alia admitted that Mahesh Bhatt was quite cool about it, Ranbir will not be that way as a father if Raha introduces him to any boy in the future when she grows up. Alia said, "I can't imagine that happening today with Ranbir and Raha, he will be kicking any boy that comes to the house." On work front, Ranbir and Alia will be sharing screen space again in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love And War'.

— ETimes

Vijay puts on 8 kg for role

Vijay Varma has always gone above and beyond to give his characters a sense of realism. The actor appears to have raised the bar once more with his upcoming series, 'Matka King.' It is anticipated that the project, which explores the realm of the underground betting industry, will feature Vijay in an engaging and genuine avatar. The actor has ensured that his preparation is in line with the complexity of the role.

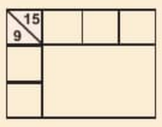
A person familiar with the situation claims, "Vijay went the extra mile for Matka King. He even gained about 8 kilos, as he believed having a slight potbelly would make his portrayal more authentic and create the true impression of a 'Matka King'. The story of 'Matka King,' which was directed by 'Sairat' and 'Fandry's director Nagraj Manjule, takes place in Mumbai in the 1960s. Vijay Varma and Kritika Kamra play important roles in the series, which attempts to depict the exciting and occasionally dangerous world of Matka gambling.

Vijay previously gave an update on 'Matka King' during an interview with Cinema Express. "I am in the process of wrapping Matka King," he said. "It's one of those larger-than-life epic stories of a man who found a loophole in the system and made the most out of it," he said.

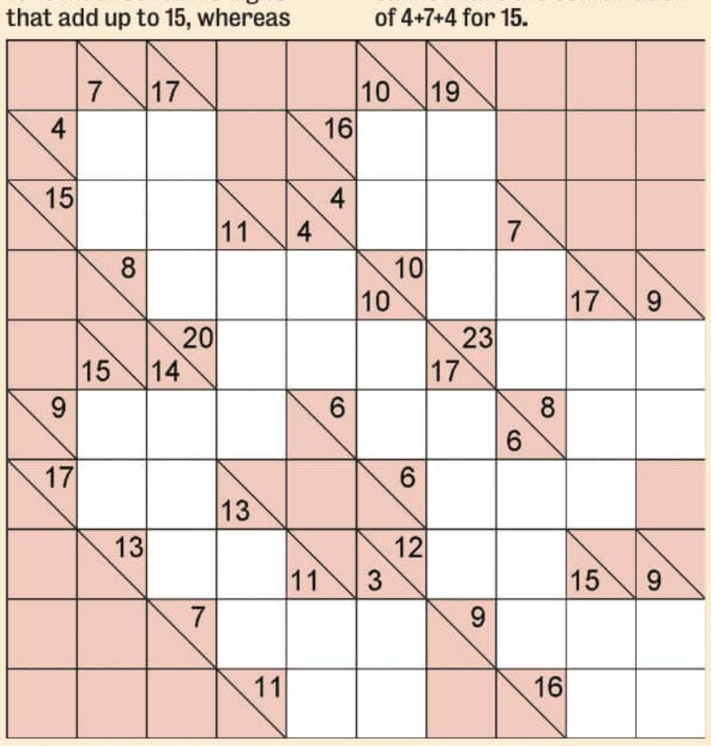
— ETimes

Kakuro

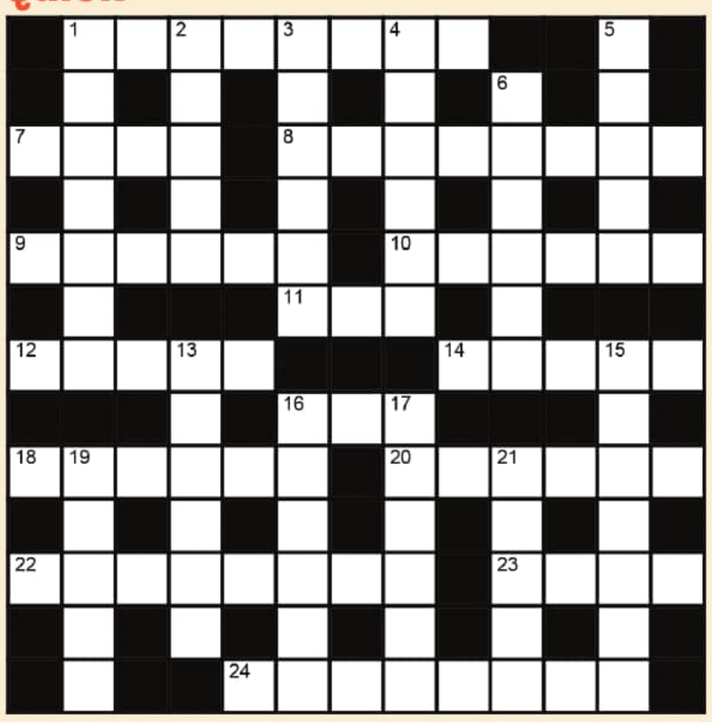
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Failed utterly (4,4)
7 Diesel oil, slang (4)
8 Specimens (8)
9 Befuddled (6)
10 ___ a cab : called a taxi? (6)
11 Asian condiment? (3)
12 Malign (5)
14 Gray (5)
16 Record company ___ Victor (3)
18 Another word for "kabaddi" (2,2,2)
20 Dowdy women (6)
22 Keep in mind (8)
23 State dissolved in 1991 (4)
24 Converted waste material into re-usable form (8)

DOWN

1 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
2 Horizontal (5)
3 Meadows (6)
4 Lack of enthusiasm (6)
5 Farm birds (5)
6 Plunder (6)
13 Charm; talisman (6)
15 Laid bare, uncovered (7)
16 Sound of distant thunder (6)
17 Noisy disturbance (6)
19 Turn upside down (5)
21 Customary (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

ZQ MUNTD UMDQF SQUSCQ'O CVKQO OVPSCB EB QWVOM-VGH.

Linemaro

Do you like science because i've got my ion you

Mind chow

Formal education will make you a living; self education will make you a fortune

Joke of the day

"Poor Old fool," thought the well-dressed gentleman as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub. So he invited the old man inside for a drink. As they sipped their whiskeys, the gentleman thought he'd humor the old man and asked, "So how many have you caught today?" The old man replied, "You're the eighth."

Loop

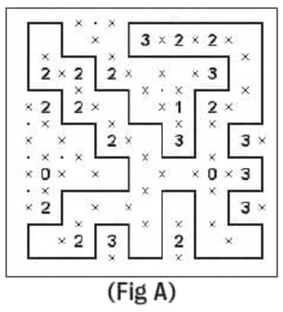
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

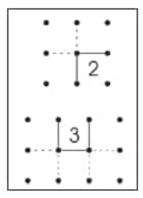
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

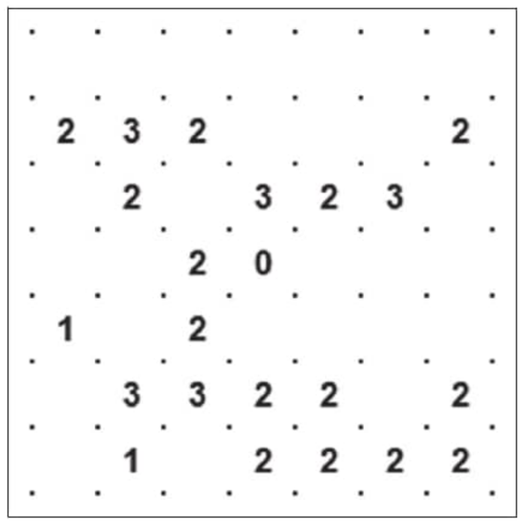
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



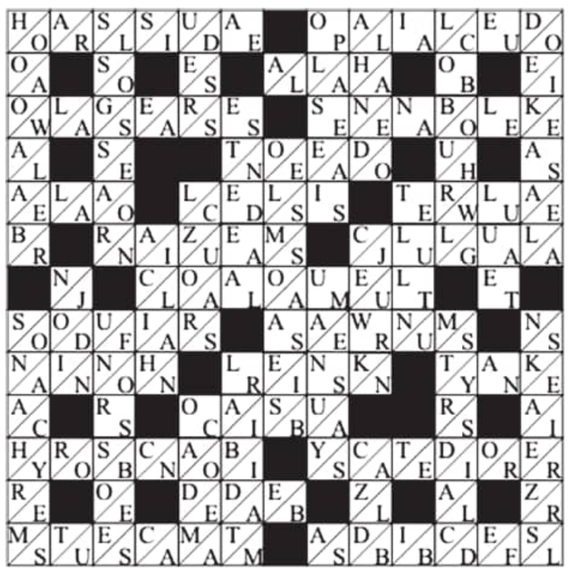
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



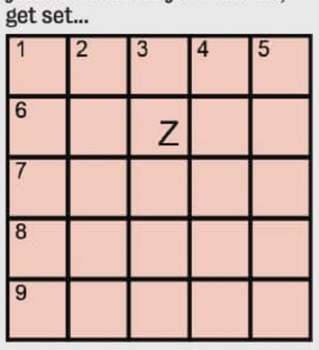
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

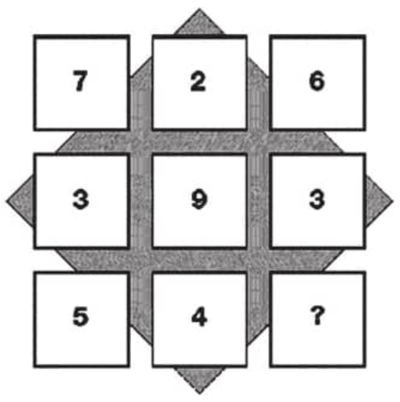
1 Forts; 6 Roar Z; 7 A Argo; 8 N seen; 9 Sleek

DOWN

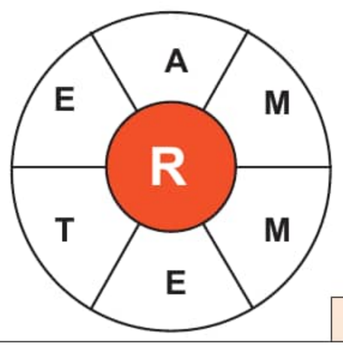
1 Rank F; 2 Eager; 3 NE Zoo; 4 Loser; 5 Stars

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4	6		9		3		2	8
			5	6	7			
		1				9		
	8		3	4	9		1	
	9		2	7	5		3	
		4				1		
			8	9	4			
2	3		6		1		7	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

□□□□□□□□ = 8

2 4 4 6

Medium

□□□□□□□□ = 2

3 3 7 9

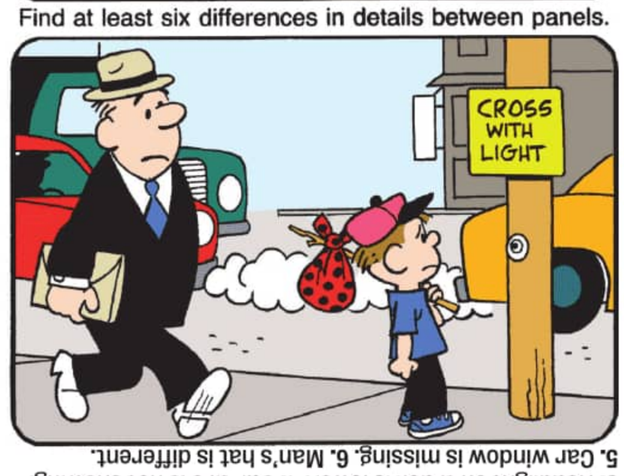
Hard

□□□□□□□□ = 6

2 3 4 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



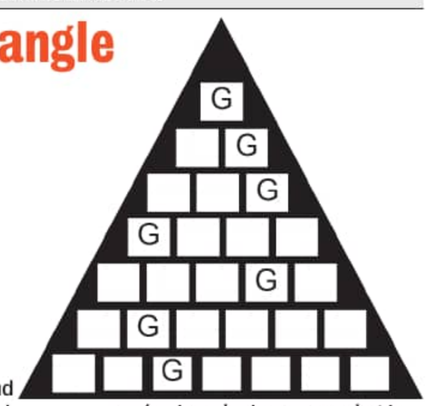
Differences: 1. Sign is lower. 2. Button on pole is lower. 3. Headlight on truck is lower. 4. Car tire is not showing. 5. Car window is missing. 6. Man's hat is different.

Riddler

If you like solving puzzles, periodically, Then this may suit your particular body chemistry. One is partly controversial but makes hard teeth with just a trace, Two is notoriously poisonous and sometimes seen with old lace. Three made the Hindenburg rise and fall disastrously from the sky, Four is most essential, without Thyroxin you would surely die. Five is up in the air and to life it is very dear. Six is like your favourite pub, a lot to do with atmosphere. Put us all together and we wield economic power, A magazine? ; a dress ? ; a trend? ; I change by the hour. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbr.
2 Silver symbol
3 Label
4 Entrance
5 Play setting
6 Reps
7 Lodestones

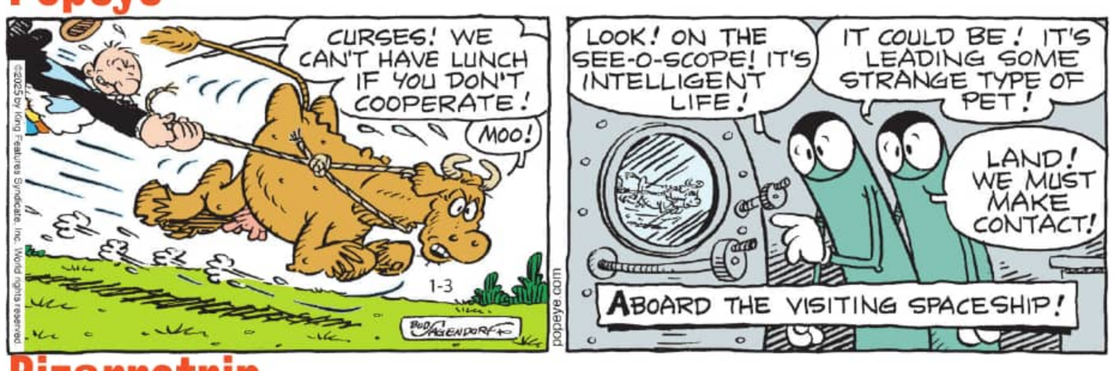


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

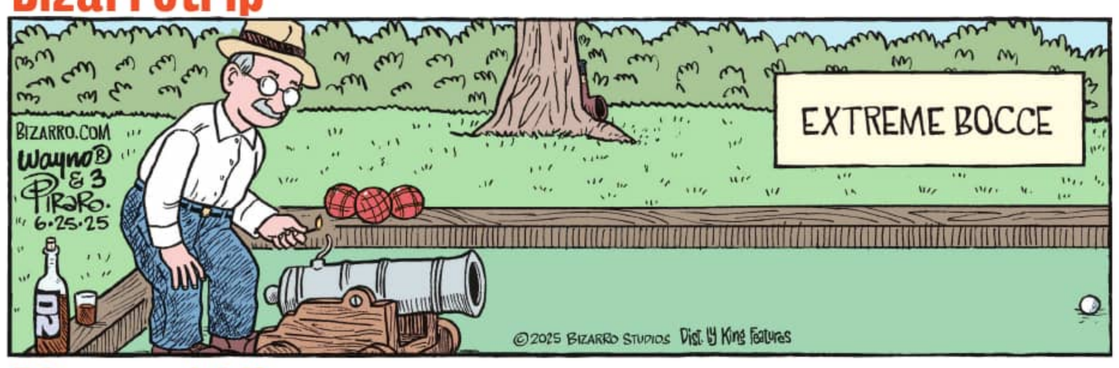
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


CURSES! WE CAN'T HAVE LUNCH IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE!
MOO!
1-3
LOOK! ON THE SEE-O-SCOPE! IT'S INTELLIGENT LIFE!
IT COULD BE! IT'S LEADING SOME STRANGE TYPE OF PET!
LAND! WE MUST MAKE CONTACT!
ABOARD THE VISITING SPACESHIP!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

REMEMBER TO HOLD YOUR BREATH WHILE YOU CROSS, OR ELSE SONIA WILL HEAR YOU AND GET YOU.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER RULES WE SHOULD KNOW?
MMM... DON'T GO WITH THE GHOST IF IT INVITES YOU TO STEP OFF THE BRIDGE.
GOT IT.
IGNORE THE GHOST
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

EVEN THOUGH DAD'S IN NEW YORK CITY, I THINK ABOUT HIM ALL DAY LONG.
I REMEMBER THAT THE LAST THING HE SAID TO ME WAS...
AAAAA! DON'T FORGET TO WATER THE GARDEN!!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
6-25

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Adventure and curiosity define your year. Travel, studies, or new hobbies spark inspiration, opening pathways to growth. Career brings unexpected recognition if you're open to innovation. Friendships expand, introducing diverse perspectives. A creative project might transform into income. Confidence rises as challenges push you to adapt. Love thrives when communication stays open.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

This potent day urges progress over perfection, Aries. Release past trauma and resentments, allow tears if needed, then flip the switch. Divine support surrounds you—welcome healing.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Feeling stressed financially? Re-member you are expressing abundance; generosity returns more. Trust intuitive flashes at night and act on insights. Small faithful steps open limitless opportunities when you commit now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

When the heart plateaus, transformation begins. Honour your unique experiences and integrate lessons. You are protected, worthy, and ready to shine fully. Embrace this final leg with courage and grace now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You're not cut off from Source, tight control creates fear. Choose clear, healthy communication and step away from drama. Acceptance of past and others births lasting peace. Trust the process gently now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Stop waiting for a single purpose; serve daily instead. Ask how you can be of service now. Small acts, kind choices, and intuition open unexpected doors and spark divine opportunities today now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Faith versus control causes inner conflict. Trust heavenly guidance while listening to gut instincts. Any choice lacking full enthusiasm deserves a clear, compassionate 'No' right now.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

You balance being and doing; your evolved perspective is expanding confidence. Add your voice boldly and recognise your role in the larger picture. Growth arrives as you own your radiant power now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You're naturally social; connect, recharge, and celebrate your tribe. Fostering relationships draws resources and joy. Your love for life opens pathways to deeper meaning, and abundance.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Detox mind, body, and spirit by slowing down. Savor small rituals, breathe, and ground attention in the present. Training presence dissolves anxiety and reconnects you to creativity and inner peace now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

You are safe and watched over; honour progress and refill your own cup. Stop seeking validation externally, rekindle your inner spark and confidently choose what nurtures your authentic heart from today now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

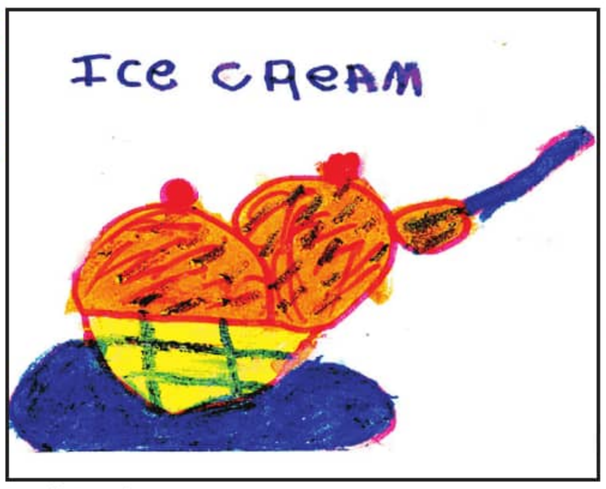
Trust your path and declutter to invite divine assistance. Choose what truly belongs; open to love and prosperity. Softening the grind mentality yields flow, unexpected support, and timely, graceful abundance now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

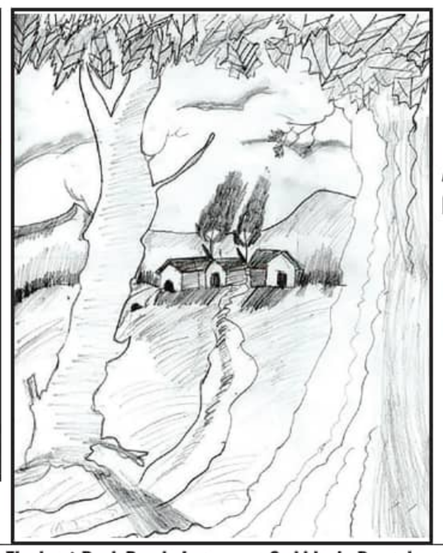
Gratitude for present blessings magnetises more. Your purpose gains clarity—have faith. Balance intuition with action, listening with speaking, to move forward with confident, gentle momentum today now.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Amogh, Bengaluru



Ananya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER One : Fluorine in Fluoride prevents tooth decay.(F). Two: Arsenic is poisonous (1944 Cary Grant movie "Arsenic and Old Lace" (As). Three: Airship Hindenburg was filled with Hydrogen (H). Four: Iodine is required by the thyroid gland for production of thyroxin. (I). Five: oxygen required by most living organisms (O).. Six: Nitrogen makes up 80% of our atmosphere. (N) F As H I O N

FAST FIVE

F	R	O	S	T
R	A	Z	O	R
A	G	O	R	A
N	E	N	E	S
K	E	E	L	S

SOLVE IN 1M

2 * (0) * 729 - 1 / 7
0 - 1/7 = -1 / 7

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

6. Each row and column of the diagram adds up to 15

BULL'S EYE

AMMETER, eater, mare, mart, mater, mere, meter, rate, ream, tamer, tear, term, tram, tree

QUOTE UNCODE

We touch other people's lives simply by existing.

SUDOKU

2	3	8	6	5	1	4	7	9
6	1	7	8	9	4	2	5	3
9	5	4	7	3	2	1	8	6
1	9	6	2	7	5	8	3	4
7	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	2
5	8	2	3	4	9	6	1	7
3	7	1	4	2	8	9	6	5
8	2	9	5	6	7	3	4	1
4	6	5	9	1	3	7	2	8

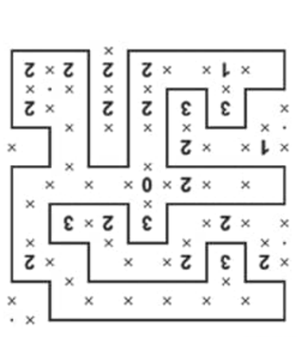
ALPHA TRIANGLE

G, Ag, Tag, Gate, Stage, Agents, Magnets.

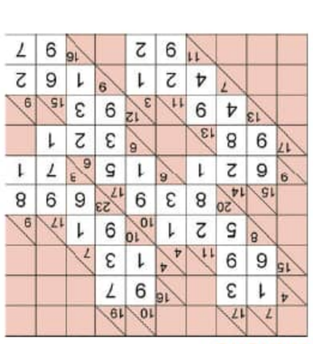
GO FIGURE

Easy
2 + 6 + 4 - 4 = 8
Medium
3 + 9 - 7 - 3 = 2
Hard
2 + 3 - 4 + 5 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO

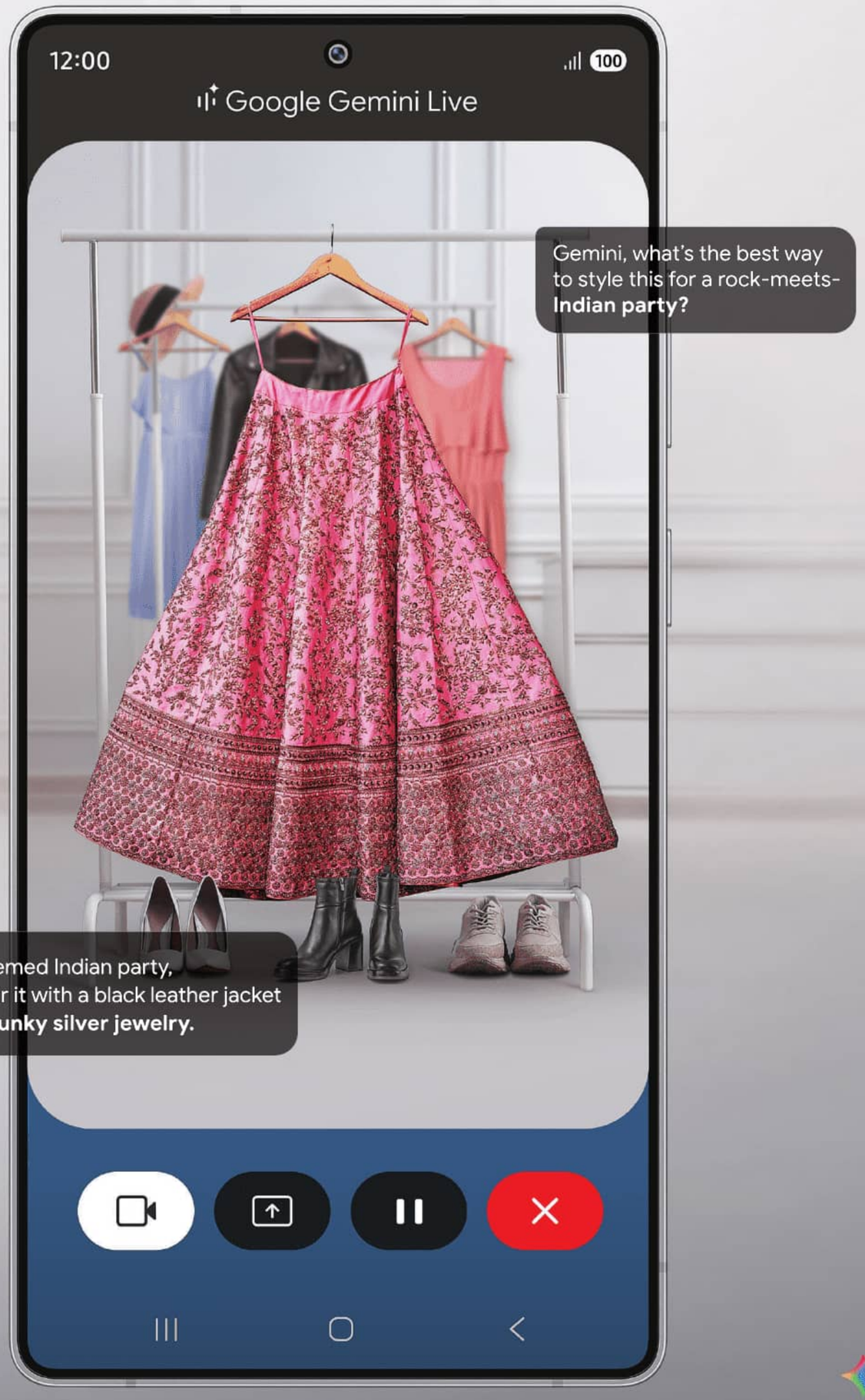


Volume No 18, Issue No 195 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SAMSUNG

Galaxy S25 Ultra

Got a question? Go live. Get answers.


12:00
100
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For a rock themed Indian party, you could pair it with a black leather jacket and some **chunky silver jewelry.**

Google Gemini

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